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PARTY LINES FADE AS VOTE NEARS ON BIG WAR BOND BILL

Leaders Predict Passage of \$7,000,000,000 Measure by Night, With Vote Practically Unanimous in Its Favor—Partisanship Disappears in Debate and Opposition to Measure is But Slight.

Washington, April 14—Passage by night of the \$7,000,000,000 war revenue bill by the House was assured today. Leaders of both parties expressed the belief that the vote in favor of the measure would be practically unanimous.

The measure was taken up in the House today under an agreement to begin discussion of amendments under the five minute rule. General debate closed last night. Voting on the bill itself was to begin early this afternoon.

An amendment was added to limit specifically distribution of the proposed \$7,000,000,000 foreign loan, which the bill would authorize, to countries actually at war with Germany and only during hostilities.

A feature of the debate was the absence of partisan spirit.

An amendment by Representative

Shackelford to levy an additional income tax with a view to preventing any net income of over \$50,000 annually to any person was ruled out of order on objection by Democratic Leader Kitchin.

A proposal by Representative Towne of Iowa to eliminate the proposed \$2,000,000,000 loan to the Allies was eliminated also.

Speeches by Republican Leader Mann and Representative Rainey of Illinois, Fitzgerald of New York and Gardner of Massachusetts, urging full adoption of the broad features of the administration's plan, were roundly applauded.

U. S. VESSEL ABANDONED BY CREW UNDER U-BOAT FIRE; ALL HANDS ARE SAFE

Washington, April 14—The American schooner Edwin R. Hunt of New York was abandoned by her crew under shell fire from a submarine near Cape Gata, Spain, in the Mediterranean, April 7, according to a dispatch to the state department from Consul Gametti in Malaga.

Consul Gametti's message said: "American schooner Edwin R. Hunt of New York, Nicholas Miller master, with crew of eight, bound from Crotte to New York in ballast, shelled by

submarine at 4 a. m. April 7, 40 miles off Cape Gata. Ship abandoned by crew under fire, fate unknown. Crew all saved, brought to Almeria by Danish schooner Konso."

MASKED MEN DISCOVERED AT RAILROAD BRIDGE AT TOWNERS; PLOTS FEARED

Danbury, April 14—Officials of the Eastern Division of the New York Central railroad and of the Central New England railroad were investigating today an incident reported to them by a freight engineer which has given rise to suspicion that a party of men had attempted to tamper with the abutments of a railroad bridge at Towners, N. Y., 15 miles west of here, early yesterday. The bridge in question carries rails of one company over those of another and is a means of reaching the Hudson river bridge below Poughkeepsie.

The engineer of a southbound freight train reported that in crossing the bridge he noticed several men at the main abutment. He thought they were masked. On arrival in Towners he made a report by wire to the Harlem River division headquarters and a special train was sent out. An examination of the ground beneath the bridge showed that someone had been digging at the abutments. A handkerchief was found that had been used for binding purposes. On the embankment were the masks of several persons, scrambling up and down.

POLICE SEIZE HIGH-POWERED WIRELESS SETS

Some of Machines Capable of Sending Messages to South America.

Costly high powered wireless sets totaling 25 in number, have this far been confiscated by the police. A number of the machines which form an interesting exhibit in Capt. Charles Wheeler's room in police headquarters are capable of sending messages to Cuba and all parts of South America. They have been dismantled and confiscated by the police as a result of the government order. At the conclusion of the was all the machines will be returned to the owners. The police today have at police headquarters with the wireless sets a number of Maxim gun silencers, one being taken from the home of Herbert W. Quinby, 325 Helen street. The house is directly opposite the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. shop.

SEEKING OWNER OF AMMUNITION CACHE IN FIELD

Police Act on Report of East Siders Who Saw Man in Lot Burying Shells.

Seen by residents in the vicinity burying a large quantity of ammunition which included rifle shells of varying calibers, in a vacant lot in Edna avenue, near East Main street, an unidentified man is being sought by Capt. George B. Coley of the second precinct station today. Immediately after the ammunition had been buried, residents notified the police and Sergeant Williams and Police Officer Ryan went to the scene. They discovered in the cache the following style and calibre shells: Remington, .48; Remington, .52; Art. B., .52; 17 and 24; shells and revolver cartridges of many other makes.

Navy Opens Bids For Big Shell Contract

Washington, April 14—The Navy Department made public today bids received from 25 munition makers on an order for 1,578,000 shells of all calibers. Eleven bidders each offered to absorb the entire order for 1,770,000 one-pounder projectiles and within a few weeks to begin deliveries at the rate of from 100,000 to 500,000 shells a month. There were six separate proposals covering the entire order for 3,400 fourteen inch shells. The bids also show a capacity to produce 30,000 six inch shells, 2,500 14-inch and about the same number of 12 inch shells a month after the machinery is set in motion.

Quentin Roosevelt In Canadian Aero Corps For Training

Montreal, April 14—Quentin Roosevelt, son of Theodore Roosevelt, has joined the Canadian aviation corps to obtain instruction for service with an American army at the European front should such an expedition go abroad. If no American troops go to France, young Roosevelt will serve with the Canadian air forces.

THE WEATHER
Fair tonight and Sunday.

ONLY ASSOCIATED PRESS EVENING PAPER IN BRIDGEPORT.

FOUR MILES OF GERMAN LINES SMASHED BY FOE

SCHOOLBOYS OF CITY MAY AID UNITED STATES

Supt. Slawson Will Ask Volunteer Army to Cultivate Food Resources.

CHILDREN MAY GIVE UP THEIR VACATION

Temporary Release From Further School Attendance May Be Granted Pupils.

The schoolboys of Bridgeport will be asked to relinquish their vacation periods to help prepare sufficient food supplies for Bridgeport and its people.

This action will begin Monday of next week when Supt. Samuel J. Slawson of the Bridgeport public schools will ask for a volunteer army of boys and girls from this city to assist in the cultivation and harvesting of crops, to perform such other services of which they may think themselves capable of. A census will be taken of the schools and prepared for use under Governor Holcomb, or the Council of National Defense.

No action has as yet been taken in this city along the lines already adopted by Chicago and other Western cities where 6,000 boys above the age of 16 have been released from further attendance next Monday provided they enlist in the production of staple necessities in the country.

In a conference with principals of Bridgeport schools this morning and Chamber of Commerce officials, Supt. Slawson made it plain that the schools of this city would co-operate in anything reasonable that may be wanted.

Commenting upon the situation to The Farmer, Supt. Slawson later said: "The school board, I am sure, will do anything that may be desired of us by the governor or those at Washington who are now planning for the necessary food supply. We have taken no definite action as yet because we believe that it is better to have systematic government of the great army that will be needed to till the fields. Whenever the call comes Bridgeport will be the first to respond."

"Bridgeport pupils have not been asked to go in the fields as have the Cook county (Ill.) boys, but we will begin Monday to take a census among the schools to determine how many boys and girls may volunteer for light service in agricultural life. We have ideas of other service that might be utilized. Many undoubtedly will voluntarily give up their vacations. If they are needed before vacation time the school board will take such action as will relieve them from their school duties."

Wealthy To Give Lawns For Tilling

The beautiful lawns fronting Park avenue, Waldemere avenue and Park Place, as well as elsewhere in Bridgeport, are likely to become large potato raising grounds during the coming season.

Led by the owners of the big Bronson estate at Greenfield Hill, where the handsome lawns and meadows are to be plowed and fertilized and seed potatoes distributed to the farmers about that section, and DeVer H. Warner, who will perform like service in Fairfield, and even offers for crop planting in Bridgeport for crop planting if necessity demands, owners of other big areas of ground are enthusiastic in the plan.

The Brooklawn club grounds may be turned over to the Council of National Defense through Governor Holcomb for planting purposes in the possible food emergency.

Among those home owners in the Park district who are reported today to be in absolute harmony with the spirit which actuated the foremost families in Cleveland, Ohio, to donate their well-kept lawns on Euclid avenue to the troops of the plot and the hoe are Nathaniel W. Bishop, L. B. Curtis, Wilson Marshall and Dr. Virgil F. Gibney. There are a score of others.

In the Greenfield Hill district it was announced this morning that the Bronson estate, formerly occupied by the late minister to Japan, Lloyd C. Griscom, will be opened for the first time in two years. One thousand bushels of seed potatoes and a carload of fertilizer have been purchased through Conrad Buckingham at Southport. It is the plan of the Bronson estate managers to divide the ground among farmers, the land to be worked on equitable shares. The owner will furnish both seed and fertilizer.

DeVer H. Warner, interviewed by The Farmer, said: (Continued on Page 2.)

British, Pushing Terrific Offensive, Batter Enemy's Lines at Many Points Along French Front.

Fires and Explosions in Rear of German Lines as They Retire Before Drive—Many Captives Taken.

British Headquarters in France, April 14—(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press)—The British last night broke the German front for a distance of four miles. The Germans are in retreat.

The gaps in the German defenses were made in two places. Positions on a front of three miles between the Double Crassier and Givenchy and another mile in the north flank of the Hindenburg trench system were captured. Advanced posts were pushed well toward Queant and Pronville, important points in the German defenses.

The Germans are fighting as they retire from Loos sopihward and are hard pressed.

Fires and explosions in the territory to the rear of the German lines continue. The weather today was favorable for campaigning.

STRONG POSITIONS TAKEN.

London, April 14—The village of Fayet, one mile northwest of St. Quentin, has been captured by the British after a sharp fight, according to an official statement by the war office.

The important position of Ascension farm and Grand Priel farm, east of Le Vaguier, were also captured. In the direction of Vimy the British seized the Vimy station, La Chaudiere, and enemy positions between Givenchy and Conelle, and Angres. Progress was also made north of the Bapaume-Cambrai road.

Among the guns captured by the British were four howitzers of eight inches.

FRENCH TAKE CAPTIVES.

Paris, April 14—Artillery fighting continues with marked intensity in the Champagne, the war office announces. French patrols were active and brought back prisoners. South of St. Quentin there were heavy artillery actions.

Home Guards May Become Farm Hands

(Special to Farmer.)

Hartford, April 14—Upon the acknowledged principle that bread and bullets are equally essential and that victory in the present crisis will depend entirely upon the food supply, serious consideration is today being given by officers in command of the Home Guard to a proposition that the big organization be utilized during the summer months in the plowing and tilling and later harvesting while the women of the state now being organized under the National League for Women's Service, be employed in the lighter tasks.

Senators and representatives at the Capitol who have had the project in mind have submitted tentative plans for the consideration of the Home Guard commanders throughout the State. With concurrent thought throughout the country, fully acquiesced in by suffrage leaders that the women of America should shoulder the hoe as well as the lighter burdens of business and industrial occupation which men may release that they can do the harder work of raising supplies for America, and that boys shall give up their vacation periods to become summer soldiers in the plow and hoe, has presented itself that the Home Guard, filled with able bodied men, may be of greater service in the fields than as military.

What action the Home Guard commanders will suggest to Governor Holcomb has not become known as yet, but that a strong appeal for use of the Home Guard in agricultural pursuits is known to be in a formula process among the granges and farmers of the state at this time.

It is asserted by farmers throughout this country that while many of the Home Guard may not have technical training in agricultural pursuits the members may readily take to the lighter tasks at first, help about the stables, barns, gardens and orchards thereby releasing the agriculturally trained owners of the farm for the more intricate work of planting and cultivating. During the harvest season expert knowledge is of small importance, but many hands are the chief requisite.

The Home Guard members might (Continued on Page 2.)

LOCAL PASTOR HISSSED DOWN FOR PACIFISM

Rev. E. F. Weise, of Grace Church, Causes Row at Conference.

"TREASON!" CRY OF MINISTER PATRIOTS

Will Go to Germany "To Convert Teutons, But Not to Kill Them."

Shouts of "Treason!" resounded through St. Mark's church, Bushwick avenue and Beverly road, where nearly 300 clergymen from 21 sections of New York and New England had congregated. Attempts of the young Bridgeport clergyman to continue his paper and elucidate his patriotism were howled down and he did not remain in the assembly to vote the resolution which finally pledged both the property and the lives of the Methodist Episcopal churches to the country in the nation's crisis.

Mr. Weise returned to the convention today and declared that, although he had German blood in his veins, his grandfather had fought in the Union forces of the Civil War in 1861.

"I thank God," he said in conclusion, "that although the German blood is in my body, there is none of the Kaiser's mixed in it. If my country desires my services to go into Germany and convert its people to the right beliefs, I am at its service but I cannot conscientiously go there to kill."

In a fiery discussion in the East Methodist conference being held in New York this week, which includes nearly every Methodist Episcopal minister of this city among its number, Rev. E. F. Weise, pastor of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church on Clinton avenue, sprang a sensation and produced a violent uproar in the assembly when in the attempt to prevent him from reading a pacifist paper he declared: "If I am to choose between my God and my country, I have already chosen my God!"

Mr. Weise, who has been pastor of the Grace M. E. church in this city for the last two years, succeeding Dr. O. W. E. Cook, in this pastorate, resides at 458 Clinton avenue with his family. He is 38 years of age, was born in Missouri, a graduate of the Kansas University and the Drew Theological Seminary. Prior to coming to Bridgeport he preached in Georgetown, Conn., and in the West.

He is considered in Bridgeport by those who have been closely associated with him to be thoroughly American in principle though he has been an ardent advocate of pacifism. It was through his effort that Dr. Milton S. Rees, evangelist was brought to Bridgeport for the recent religious revival.

His attitude yesterday in failing to unanimously pledge the church, has come as a distinct surprise to officers and members of the church body and it is believed here that the final reports will show that Mr. Weise's vote is included in favor of the proposition.

Located in Long Island City by The Farmer this morning, Mr. Weise explained his attitude in these words: "I simply stated that my religious views were unalterably opposed to war; that I was an American, patriotic and willing to do anything I can for America but that I cannot, according to my religious convictions, kill for it."

Asked as to the reported failure to vote his church and services to the government in time of emergency he replied:

"I was not there when the vote was taken. I had attempted to read my paper on pacifism but was shouted down. The entire conference was practically against me and my religious belief, but I shall return to the conference this morning and I propose to tell them that I do not lack that patriotism they may doubt. My grandfather, who was born in Germany, fought in the Civil War for the Union cause, and while I have German blood in my veins, I thank God that it is not of the Kaiser, I am not even in sympathy with the German government and I am against militarism anywhere."

"Had I been permitted to finish my speech yesterday," he continued, "I should have told the assembly that if my government wants to send me to Germany to convert its people, not to kill them, I shall be glad to go even though it cost me my life."

On the reported statement: "If I am to choose between my God and my country I have already chosen—my God!" Rev. Weise comments: "I think that any man who believes in God ought to do that. As I said yesterday in defense of my statements, the person who seems a traitor today is considered a patriot tomorrow and I have in mind both Washington and Jefferson when I make that statement."

"I love America for what it has done for me but I cannot change my views which are irrevocably against the taking of human life."

THOUSANDS LIKELY TO BE EVICTED IN "RESTRICTED ZONE"

Maennerchor Club's Flag Is Destroyed

One of the most despicable acts which has as yet come to the knowledge of the police and which, it is determined by Supt. of Police Redgate will be traced until the perpetrator is brought to the bar of justice, is the recent desecration and destruction of a large American flag hung upon the front of the Bridgeport Schwaebischer Maennerchor.

It has been reported to the police by Joseph Schietinger, chairman of the patriotic committee recently appointed by the German Singing society that upon vote of the organization, all German flags had been taken down from the interior of the building, destroyed and American flags hung in their place as outward evidence of the inward determination of the society members to display their loyalty to America.

A large flag was hung to the breeze from a staff in front of the building, 27 French street, last Monday. It remained up until Good Friday morning when the janitor upon opening the hall door it was found to have been knotted together.

When the occurrence was reported to the patriotic committee, search was at once made for policeman who had been upon the beat during the night. They were unable to give information which would lead to the arrest of the vandals and the matter was further reported to the police chiefs. Another American flag was procured and again flies from the building.

Officers of the Maennerchor are loud in their protestation against the desecration and feel that united effort should be made by the club members, resident in the vicinity and upon the part of the police to arrest the perpetrator.

Supt. Redgate today expressed his intention of aiding the society members in bringing the flag desecrator to justice and the person if caught, Supt. Redgate will appear before the court to ask that the maximum penalty be imposed for the offense.

EBENEZER HILL MAKES ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT

Norwalk Legislator Picks Out Patriotic Meeting to Inject Discord.

A single jarring note made its way into the conference to organize Fairfield county resources, in High school assembly hall yesterday, when a letter was read from E. J. Hill, Congressman representing the Fourth district, endorsing the movement, but making an open attack on the government.

Mr. Hill charged that the government "dilly dally and shilly shally for four years."

Lynn W. Wilson, rising to a point of order said: "Mr. Hill's charges against the government of the United States are an affront to the government of the country, an assault upon the good faith and intelligence of the United States, and cannot properly be received by this body and the language should be stricken from the record."

Judge Edward K. Nicholson, chairman of the meeting, ruled that the language might stay, upon the ground that, instead of naming the President in terms, Mr. Hill referred to him as the "poor who governs."

Nobody Injured When Dentist's Car Goes Off Seawall at Park

A narrow escape from death occurred yesterday afternoon at Seaside park when in an effort to avoid military lines, a large seven passenger touring car driven by Dr. Philip McLaughlin of this city became unmanageable and before it could be stopped hurtled the sea wall in the vicinity of the soldiers' and sailors' monument.

In the car at the time were Dr. McLaughlin and his wife, also Mrs. James D. Lawler, Miss Hicks of Montross, and the infant child of Dr. McLaughlin.

The car remained upon its wheels after the deep descent among the rocks that protect the wall and all the occupants were rescued from their predicament by soldiers in the nearby camp. None was seriously injured though the shock of the experience was felt for some time. The car was damaged only slightly and was removed later by garage men.

Six hundred machinists employed by the Erie Basin Dry Dock Co. and Tietjen & Lange started to work repairing the seized German ships at Hoboken.

Many Slovaks and Others Who Have Emigrated From Hungary and Austria Will Be Forced to Move If Austria Declares War.

Superintendent of Charities Making Arrangements to House Poor in Vacant Factories, Barns and Other Buildings.

Thousands of Slovaks and other immigrants from Austria and Hungary are in imminent danger of eviction from their homes in East Bridgeport. In the event of a declaration of war between Austria-Hungary and the United States, the Slovaks who own much property in East Bridgeport, being subjects of Austria-Hungary, will have to leave East Bridgeport.

The extension of the restricted zone to the half mile limit would take in the great Slovak population of the district. Not more than half of these are naturalized Americans.

Taking the "bull by the horns," Supt. Angus Thorn, of the charities department, admitting the reality that he was making arrangements with owners of large buildings, vacant factories and other structures to provide for any emergency of this nature.

Supt. Thorn also feels that in the event of an explosion or public disaster it is his duty to see that every detail for the accommodation of injured or homeless persons should be arranged now. By Monday, he states, he will be able to make public the plans which he has arranged with other charities officials.

The extension of the present area in East Bridgeport to the half mile limit is at present contemplated. Major Beebe, the military commander in charge of the district, informed the Farmer reporter this morning that the immediate extension of the limit is not probable.

His command has been strengthened by the addition of another company which arrived in this city this morning. He stated to the Farmer today that in view of "extenuating circumstances," namely the mobility of some of the barred families being able to obtain houses in other parts of the city, he has granted an extension of the time set for their eviction.

The restricted zone is fast assuming the character of a stockade. Gates are being erected at all streets leading into the zone. Army and Navy factories and houses. All territory included in the district which is bounded by Boston avenue, Seaview avenue, Barnum avenue and Hallett is under martial law and the supervision of Major Beebe.

Gates already block entrance to the district at Barnum avenue and Hallett street, Artie and Hallett street and Helen and Arctic streets. All other avenues and thoroughfares leading to the zone are now being closed by the erection of gates.

The Slovaks residing in the district are praised for their loyalty to the United States. They desire to see their race emancipated and are praying that Austria Hungary will be defeated. Nevertheless they are under the protection of the Austrian government unless naturalized and a strict observance of the government rule that no alien enemy can live or approach within a half mile of a munition plant would bar them from this district, in event of war between Austria and the United States.

Extending the boundary of the present zone a half mile would place under martial law and guard many big factories in the district. It would take in the American British Co., the Holmer & Edwards Silver shop, Chain plant, Singer plant, Bridgeport Brass Co., and the East Side plant of the American Graphophone Co. Part of main line of the New Haven road, on which trains between Boston and New York run would also be safeguarded.

Supt. Redgate stated today that the passes which he has ordered manufactured for the use of the residents in the restricted zone will be turned over by him to Major Beebe. "They will be issued carefully," stated Redgate, "by Major Beebe, to whom I will give them. He will have entire charge of giving them out."

No vehicles of any description are allowed to pass through that part of Barnum and Seaview avenues which is in the restricted zone. They can pass through the gates in Barnum avenue are not allowed to stop to allow passengers to alight or get aboard. The moment the gates are reached a soldier and policeman board the electric and ride through the zone. Vehicles on reaching the gates at either end of Barnum avenue must turn off the street and take a roundabout route.

GERMANS BECOME RESTLESS

Amsterdam, April 14—The military attitude of the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin writes that he has received many letters which prove that "the nerves of many readers are beginning to give way." He dwells on the "unfounded" excitement which he says is spreading among those at home, and he warns the public not to judge the situation from single events but to consider events as a whole.